

**Remarks****Status Of Claims**

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1 and 3-17 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 6, 7, 11, 12 and 16 are amended herein. Thus, each independent claim is amended herein. Claim 2 was previously canceled. No new matter is added.

**Response to Claim Rejections under 37 U.S.C. § 102(b) and 37 U.S.C. 103(a)**

The Office Action of November 27, 2006 (Office Action), maintains the rejection of claims 6, 8-11 and 13-15 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over U.S. 6,352,327 to Yano *et al* (Yano '327). Applicants maintain their previous comments regarding the disclosure of Yano '327. Also, the Office Action rejects claims 1, 3-5, 7, 12, 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Yano '327 in view of U.S. 6,217,149 to Takagi *et al* (Takagi '149). Applicants respectfully traverse the current and maintained rejections.

Applicants assert in the presently claimed invention, a plurality of print elements include without limitation the first and second print elements. The first print elements in adjoining chips are not aligned in the scan direction and the second print elements in adjoining chips are aligned in the scan direction with printing positions which overlap in a scan direction. Applicants respectfully assert this is the general, or basic, configuration of the presently claimed invention.

Yano '327 and Takagi '149 fail to disclose the above configuration of the present invention.

Therefore, Applicants assert the present invention is not anticipated by Yano and is also patentable over Yano in view of Takagi. Yano '327 does not disclose all of the elements of respective independent claims 1, 6, 11 and 16, or their dependent

claims, either expressly or inherently. Therefore, no case of anticipation under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Yano '327 exists. Applicants request the withdrawal of all rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(b). Further, neither Yano '327 or Takagi '149, whether considered separately or together, teach or suggest all claimed elements of Applicants' claimed invention. Thus, no *prima facie* case of obviousness exists under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Yano '327 in view of Takagi '149. Accordingly, Applicants also respectfully request the withdrawal of all rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

### **CONCLUSION**

Applicants respectfully assert that the application is in a form for allowance and such action is hereby solicited.

If any points remain an issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through an additional personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.